Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

SAVER
System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;

- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

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https://www.rkb.us/saver

Data Mining and Analysis Tools

Emergency response to events such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and criminal activities requires access to appropriate information presented in a usable format. With the assistance of data mining and analysis tools, emergency responders can extract actionable data from the large quantities of potentially useful public, private, and government information and present the information in a usable format. As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston conducted an assessment of data mining and analysis tools, and produced the following reports:

- *Data Mining and Analysis Tools: Operational Needs and Software Requirements Analysis* documents the needs and requirements of the technology as identified by the Homeland Security Professionals who participated in the study.

- *Data Mining and Analysis Tools: Product Catalog* is a product summary which identifies available commercial off-the-shelf and government off-the-shelf data mining applications.

- *Data Mining and Analysis Tools: Technology Review and Product Selection Guide* provides a process that matches emergency responder's operational needs to appropriate software functionalities offered by vendors. This guide also documents the research methodology, and includes an overview of the knowledge discovery in databases process.

- *Data Mining and Analysis Tools: Comparative Assessment Scenarios* allows practitioners to assess data mining and analysis software tools using reasonable scenarios and data sources. The comparative assessment presents five DHS Planning-based scenarios that were conducted to test critical aspects of the data mining and analysis tools.

These reports are available on the SAVER Program Web site at https://www.rkb.us/SAVER. Reports on other technology being assessed in the SAVER Program are also available on the Web site.